

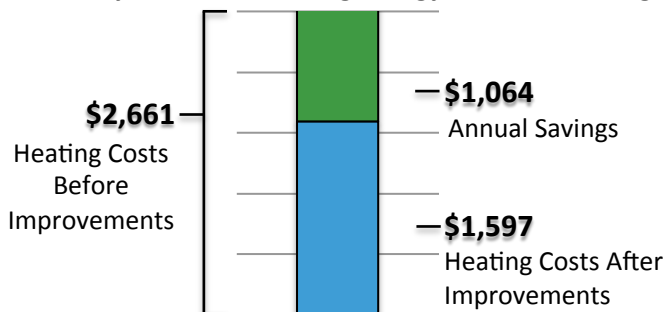
The Biddle Home: Saving Energy and Money On Your Own

Rick and Jody Biddle were concerned about the high energy costs, huge ice dams and window condensation in their Thetford Center home. As a skilled carpenter, Rick decided to make their home more energy efficient. So last year he participated in Efficiency Vermont's "Do-It-Yourself" (DIY) program that offers financial assistance to homeowners who hire a participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR® contractor to test the home, develop a list of needed improvements and provide guidance as Rick completed the work.

Rick applied spray foam and cellulose insulation in the attic, air sealed the attic hatch and recessed lights, added foam board insulation on the basement walls, installed a high-efficiency condensing boiler and added a wood stove. He also replaced a few leaky windows and doors and even added solar hot water and electric panels. The Home Performance contractor tested out at the end and verified that Rick had reduced air leakage by 50%. Last year Rick and Jody's fuel use was cut by 40%.

Rick did much of the work by himself and contracted out some of the work. In all, the improvements (not including the solar systems & Rick's labor) cost about \$7,650 and are saving a little over a \$1,000 in fuel per year. So after the \$2,235 they received from Efficiency Vermont, they should recoup their investment in about 5 years, and they are living much more comfortably.

Summary of Annual Heating Energy Costs and Savings



Relative Energy Efficiency of the Home:

Before: 38,089 BTU/sq ft After: 23,057 BTU/sq ft



As for the DIY program, Rick says, *"The initial energy audit was extremely helpful in getting me going in the right direction. By all means, go for it – enroll in this program and get a realistic appraisal of your capabilities."*



Efficiency Vermont's DIY program offers homeowners up to \$2,500 for improvements they install under the guidance of a participating Home Performance with ENERGY STAR contractor.

For more information about the DIY program, go to www.encyvermont.com/homeperformance or contact Efficiency Vermont at 888-921-5990.



Thetford Case Studies compiled by Sustainable Energy Resource Group
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